

Sourceline

SPEED LETTER		REPLY REQUESTED		DATE 23 Oct 68
		☒ YES	☐ NO	LETTER NO.
TO : Chief, PDS	FROM: Chief Editor, London Bureau			
Please note attached copy which was returned to Bureau from Chief, Publications Division. It has long been Bureau practice, and I believe that of FBIS throughout, under similar circumstances to use the normal language in the sourceline and to indicate in a subslug what other language or languages were used in the actual item, as was done with this particular item. Although the problem is by no means a serious or difficult one, I believe a determination should be made because there may be situations, as, for instance, in a bilingual or even multilingual interview, where the sourceline could carry two or even three languages. Use of subslugs rather than sourcelines to indicate language or languages would be easier for London Bureau because: 1) We use rubber stamps for sourcelines; and 2) BEG does not normally provide the language of the broadcast, but does indicate in a subslug when a language other than the normal one has been used, e.g., SPEAKER'S RUSSIAN PASSES INTO POLISH TRANSLATION. Please coordinate with Chief, Publications Division. [Signature Box] STAT				
REPLY		DATE 4 November 1968		
Dear [Redacted Box] STAT It seems now, after having talked to Chief, Publications and several Daily Report French Chiefs, that this was all a tempest in a teapot. All agree that London misinterpreted the item correctly. The Sourceline Manual says that a sourceline should reflect the language of the program (not the language of the item). All feel that it is better to stick to a standard sourceline formula and subslug for clarity if necessary, rather than complicate things in general. One suggestion for the subslug was to show the language and status at the beginning--"live speech in Russian by Marshal Gzodiko, etc." FBIS does not approve of more than one language in a sourceline, because it raises too many questions from consumers and makes sometimes-lengthy sourcelines even longer. There may be identical broadcasts in Arabic and Hebrew, for example, but only one language should be shown, even if fills have to be taken from the second language. I hope this straightens it all out and perhaps relieves the editor's mind a bit, no matter who it happened to be. Best regards, [Signature Box] STAT				
[Signature Box] STAT				

RESPONDER'S FILE